

An Interactive Approach to the Prevention of Drugs and Alcohol and Bullying

The Mock Trial Programs are a successful prevention program that arms students with the wisdom and knowledge necessary to make wise choices and healthy decisions.

Students learn the dangers of drugs, and the consequences of bullying through interactive discussion with law enforcement officials.

Students have the opportunity to witness the consequences to poor decisions, through a Mock Trial of their fellow students. Selected students act out through role playing, adolescents who have been arrested and are currently on trial for drug and alcohol possession, or for bullying and assaulting their fellow students.

The remaining students comprise the jury, and with the assistance of the District Attorney and active discussion, render verdicts upon their fellow classmates.

Questions Frequently Asked by Students in the Program

- If drugs are so bad for you, why do people use them?
- Why do my parents smoke cigarettes when they know it is so bad for them?
- If alcohol is the most used and most abused drug, why is it sold?

Words most often heard by Students in The Program

“You must think and take responsibility for your actions. Because if you don’t, you could end up taking drugs, or abusing alcohol, and hurting yourself and the people who love you.”

Mock Trial Programs



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MOCK TRIAL PROGRAMS

...A drug prevention program and a
bullying prevention program designed for
elementary and junior high school
students



*“Knowledge is essential in making
students aware of the consequences
of drug and alcohol use”*

Timothy J. Cruz
District Attorney

A Message from District Attorney Tim Cruz



The mock trial programs have reached thousands of students throughout Plymouth County. They have been praised by administrators and teachers for their no nonsense approach, their factual and thought provoking material, and for the reality they bring to children faced with hard decisions during their most formative years.

The decisions and choices our children make will shape their lives for years to come. That is why Mock Trial Programs are so important. These programs place emphasis on the legal consequences that can be expected if the wrong decisions are made.

The programs have shown to be effective drug prevention tools, and effective anti-bullying tools. Education about drugs, alcohol, and bullying, provide the knowledge children need to make wise decisions and healthy choices. Knowledge is essential in making the students aware of the consequences of drug and alcohol use, and of bullying.

If you are interested in either of our Mock Trial Programs for your school, please contact the Community Outreach and Education Unit of my office.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Cruz
District Attorney

What are the Mock Trial Programs?

The Mock Trial Programs are two three-week law related educational programs that focus on drug and alcohol prevention, and bullying prevention.

They are designed for elementary and junior high school students to reinforce those lessons already learned through Drug Abuse Prevention Programs.

The programs center around decision-making and taking risks with an emphasis on the legal consequences if wrong decisions are made.

The programs are a collaborative effort by the local police department, the participating school's teaching staff, and the District Attorney's Office.

During each program, the students have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers who work in the law enforcement field. Each speaker addresses the students and explains how their job fits into the legal system, and how it connects to the war on drugs, and the prevention of bullying.

The Mock Trials are held on the last week of each program, and the guest speakers return to play their roles along with other courtroom role players.

What do the Programs Teach?

The programs educate children about the dangers of drugs & alcohol, and the effects of bullying.

They provide the wisdom and knowledge that will result in empowering a child to make wise decisions and healthy choices throughout their lives.

Implementation of the Programs

Week 1

The students are given an overview of the program, and what they should expect over the next several weeks. Blank index cards are passed out to the students, and they are instructed to ask questions that they think might be relative to the program. The students are told not to put their names on the cards, as the questions will be answered week to week in group format.

Week 2

Students have the opportunity to meet local police officers, prosecutors and representatives from the District Attorney's Office. These "guest speakers" will address the students as to what role they play in the legal system, and how their job is connected to the war on drugs, or the prevention of bullying.

Questions from the previous week are addressed in a group discussion. As the session ends, the children are briefed for the final week of the program, The Mock Trial. Teachers then assign students to role play in the Mock Trial, and those students are briefed at the end of the class.

Week 3

The Mock Trial—considered to be the most exciting part of the program. A room in the school is transformed into a courtroom. The District Attorney addresses the student jury and explains what role they will play in the Mock Trial. Representatives from the District Attorney's Office assume the roles of Defense Counsel and the Judge. Students will hear evidence from their fellow students who were selected the previous week, and by a local police officer. The student jury, with the assistance of the District Attorney will decide the fate of their fellow students who are on trial.